



Australian Bureau of Statistics

1350.0 - Australian Economic Indicators, Sep 2008

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 Explanatory Notes in the form found in other ABS publications are not included in **Australian Economic Indicators**. Readers are directed to the Explanatory Notes contained in related ABS publications.

2 **Australian Economic Indicators** presents a statistical summary of the Australian economy, together with international comparisons of selected economic indicators. It also includes commentaries, articles and technical notes. **Australian Economic Indicators** has been developed primarily as a reference document, providing a broad basis for economic analysis and research.

3 The tables contain mainly ABS data, although data from other sources are included. For ABS sourced data, the publication name and catalogue number are included in the footnotes of the tables. If the data are from other sources, the source organisation's name is included in the footnotes.

MOST RECENT DATA

4 The statistics shown are the latest available as at 27 August 2008.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

5 A list of related publications is included in each chapter under the table of contents. These include publications which are the source of the data in the tables and other related publications.

6 Other useful sources of detailed information are the 'Concepts, Sources and Methods' and classification publications. These are released irregularly, each relating to a specific publication, collection or standard classification. The publications most relevant to Australian Economic Indicators include:

- **Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC)**, cat. no. 1292.0
- **Australian System of Government Finance Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods 2005**, cat. no. 5514.0
- **Australian National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods**, cat. no. 5216.0
- **Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia: Concepts, Sources and Methods**, cat. no. 5331.0
- **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods**, cat. no. 6102.0.55.001
- **Labour Price Index: Concepts, Sources and Methods**, cat. no. 6351.0.55.001

- **Australian Consumer Price Index: Concepts, Sources and Methods**, cat. no. 6461.0.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED AND TREND ESTIMATES

7 Series in this publication include original, seasonally adjusted and trend series. Special care should always be taken in interpreting data for the most recent months and quarters. Some of the original and all of the seasonally adjusted and trend series are subject to revision.

8 It is not uncommon for movements in original time series data and those provided from seasonally adjusted and trend series to differ significantly. Movements in a time series of original data may reflect several factors, including:

- longer-term changes in the item being measured (i.e. trend movements)
- short-term irregular changes
- regular seasonal influences
- normal 'trading', 'working' or 'pay' day patterns
- systematic holiday effects.

9 Seasonal adjustment and trend estimates help the user to identify the effect of these influences on the time series. Seasonal adjustment removes the effect of the last three listed influences from the data, leaving only the trend and short-term irregular movements. Trend estimates are then obtained by removing the effects of the short-term irregularities, which in many series can be a major contributor to movements in the original data. By comparing the historical trend series with the seasonally adjusted series, the user can identify the short-term irregularities which have influenced the original series.

10 Trend estimates produced by the ABS are based on Henderson Moving Averages, and are therefore subject to revision especially for the latest few months or quarters.

11 The general methods used in the ABS for making seasonal adjustments are described in Information paper: **An Introductory Course on Time Series Analysis - Electronic Delivery** (cat. no. 1346.0.55.001). The method used to estimate trends is described in Information Paper: **A Guide to Interpreting Time Series - Monitoring Trends** (cat. no. 1349.0).

12 The ABS uses concurrent seasonal adjustment to derive the combined adjustment factors. This means that data from the current month are used in estimating seasonal and trading day factors for the current and previous months. Concurrent adjustment can result in revisions each month to estimates for earlier periods. However, in most instances, the only noticeable revisions will be to the combined adjustment factors for the current month, the previous month and the same month a year ago. As a result of the concurrent seasonal adjustment the trend estimates are also concurrently estimated. Further information on concurrent seasonal adjustment can be found in Information Paper: **Introduction of Concurrent Seasonal Adjustment into the Retail Trade Series, 1999** (cat. no. 8514.0).

CHAIN VOLUME MEASURES

13 The chain volume measures appearing in this publication are annually-reweighted chain Laspeyres indexes referenced to the current price values in a chosen reference year (i.e. the year when the quarterly chain volume measures sum to the current price annual values). Chain Laspeyres volume measures are compiled by linking together (compounding) movements in volumes, calculated using the average prices of the previous financial year, and applying the

compounded movements to the current price estimates of the reference year. Quarterly chain volume estimates are benchmarked to annual chain volume estimates, so that the quarterly estimates for a financial year sum to the corresponding annual estimate.

14 Chain volume measures are not generally additive. In other words, in general, component chain volume measures do not sum to a total in the way original current price components do. In order to minimise the impact of this property, the ABS uses the latest base year as the reference year (i.e. the year prior to the latest complete financial year). By adopting this approach, non-additivity does not exist for the quarters following the reference year (currently 2005-06) and is relatively small for the quarters in the reference year and the quarters immediately preceding it. A new base year and the reference year for volume measures was previously updated annually in the June quarter Australian National Accounts (**Australian Economic Indicators**, October issue). From 2007 onwards the reference year updates in the September quarter Australian National Accounts (**Australian Economic Indicators**, January issue) each year. In the September quarter 2007 Australian National Accounts issue, the new reference year became 2005-06 for volume estimates. This had two effects, first, a new base year, 2005-06, was introduced which has resulted in revisions to growth rates in subsequent periods. Second, the volume estimates have been re-referenced to 2005-06 thus preserving additivity in the quarters after the reference year. Re-referencing changes levels but not growth rates, although some revision to recent growth rates can be expected because of the introduction of a more recent base year (and revisions to the current price estimates underlying the chain volume measures).

OTHER USAGES

15 Columns in bold in the tables indicate a total. Columns usually sum from the left, with the total appearing on the right. A major exception is the balance of payments and international investment position data in Chapter 2. These data sum from the right with the total appearing on the left - in keeping with the international standard for these statistics. Some tables include subtotal columns and columns which need to be subtracted to obtain the total. Where this is not clear a footnote explains the relationship between the columns.

16 Columns in italics indicate that seasonally adjusted or trend estimates are not available for that column, and original data are provided instead.

17 Yearly periods shown as, e.g. 2005-06, refer to the fiscal year ended 30 June 2006.

18 Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals. Percentage changes may not be exactly comparable to tabulated source series due to rounding of the source series, the percentage change series or both.

METRIC PREFIXES

19 Deca (da) = ten
Hecto (h) = hundred
Kilo (k) = thousand
Mega (M) = million
Giga (G) = thousand million
Tera (T) = million million

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ABBREVIATIONS

The following symbols and abbreviations are used in this product:

'000	thousand
\$m	million dollars
ABARE	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ADP	automatic data processing
AHECC	Australian Harmonised Export Commodity Classification
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
ASX	Australian Stock Exchange
b	billion (one thousand million)
c.i.f.	cost, insurance and freight
cat. no.	Catalogue number
CNW	change in net worth
CPI	consumer price index
excl.	excluding
EU	European Union
f.o.b.	free on board
GDP	gross domestic product
GFCF	gross fixed capital formation
GFS	Government Finance Statistics
kWh	kilowatt hour
LPG	liquefied petroleum gas
Mm ³	million cubic metres
Mt	megatonne
n.e.c.	not elsewhere classified
n.e.s.	not elsewhere specified
NBFI	non-bank financial intermediary
NLB	net lending/borrowing
NOB	net operating balance
NW	net worth
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PFC	public financial corporations
PGFCF	private gross fixed capital formation
PNFC	public non-financial corporations
RBA	Reserve Bank of Australia
S&P/ASX 200	Standard and Poor's Australian Stock Exchange top 200
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification
SUV	sport utility vehicle
TFI	total factor income
USA	United States of America

This page last updated 4 February 2009

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APPENDIX LIST OF ELECTRONIC TABLES

List of Electronic Tables

Table name	Publication table number	Electronic table number
Chapter 1 National Accounts	Chapter 1 National Accounts	Chapter 1 National Accounts
GDP and other selected aggregates, ANNUAL-Chain volume measures	Table 1.1	1
GDP and other selected aggregates, QUARTERLY-Chain volume measures	Table 1.1	2
Expenditure on gross domestic product, ANNUAL-Chain volume measures	Table 1.2	3
Expenditure on gross domestic product, QUARTERLY-Chain volume measures	Table 1.2	4
Expenditure on gross domestic product, QUARTERLY-Chain volume measures	Table 1.2	5
Gross value added, ANNUAL-By industry at basic prices-Chain volume measures	Table 1.3	6
Gross value added, QUARTERLY-By industry at basic prices-Chain volume measures	Table 1.3	7
Income component of gross domestic product, ANNUAL	Table 1.4	8
Income component of gross domestic product, QUARTERLY	Table 1.4	9
National income account, ANNUAL	Table 1.5	10
National income account, QUARTERLY	Table 1.5	11
National accounts ratios and indexes, ANNUAL	Table 1.6	12
National accounts ratios and indexes, QUARTERLY	Table 1.6	13
All Australian Governments, ANNUAL-Government finance statistics	Table 1.7	14
All Australian Governments, ANNUAL-Government finance statistics balance sheet-as at 30 June 2007	Table 1.8	15
Chapter 2 International Accounts	Chapter 2 International Accounts	Chapter 2 International Accounts
Balance of Payments, ANNUAL-Current account	Table 2.1	1
Balance of Payments, QUARTERLY-Current account-Seasonally adjusted	Table 2.1	2
Balance of Payments, ANNUAL-Capital and financial account	Table 2.2	3
Balance of Payments, QUARTERLY-Capital and financial account	Table 2.2	4
International Trade in goods and services, ANNUAL-Chain volume measures	Table 2.3	5
International Trade in Goods and Services, QUARTERLY-Chain volume measures-Seasonally adjusted	Table 2.3	6
International Trade in Goods and Services, ANNUAL	Table 2.4	7

International Trade in Goods and Services, MONTHLY	Table 2.4	8
Goods credits, ANNUAL-By commodity group	Table 2.5	9
Goods Credits, MONTHLY-By commodity group	Table 2.5	10
Goods Debits, ANNUAL-By commodity group	Table 2.6	11
Goods debits, MONTHLY-By commodity group	Table 2.6	12
Services, ANNUAL	Table 2.7	13
Services, MONTHLY	Table 2.7	14
Investment income, ANNUAL (\$ million)	Table 2.8	15
Investment income, QUARTERLY (\$ million)	Table 2.8	16
International Investment Position, ANNUAL	Table 2.9	17
International Investment Position, QUARTERLY	Table 2.9	18
International Investment Position, ANNUAL-By type of investment	Table 2.10	19
International Investment Position, QUARTERLY-By type of investment	Table 2.10	20
Balance of Payments and International investment position Ratios, ANNUAL	Table 2.11	21
Balance of Payments and International investment position ratios, QUARTERLY	Table 2.11	22
Merchandise Trade, ANNUAL-By selected countries and country groups	Table 2.12	23
Merchandise Trade, QUARTERLY-By selected countries and country groups	Table 2.12	24
Merchandise Trade Shares, ANNUAL-By selected countries and country groups	Table 2.13	25
Merchandise Trade Shares, QUARTERLY-By selected countries and country groups	Table 2.13	26
Merchandise Trade, ANNUAL-By selected countries of the ASEAN	Table 2.14	27
Merchandise Trade, QUARTERLY-By selected countries of the ASEAN	Table 2.14	28
Merchandise Trade Shares, ANNUAL-By selected countries of the ASEAN	Table 2.15	29
Merchandise Trade shares, QUARTERLY-By selected countries of the ASEAN	Table 2.15	30
Merchandise Trade, ANNUAL-By selected member countries of the European Union	Table 2.16	31
Merchandise Trade, QUARTERLY-By selected member countries of the European Union	Table 2.16	32
Merchandise trade shares, ANNUAL-By selected member countries of the European Union	Table 2.17	33
Merchandise trade shares , QUARTERLY-By selected member countries of the European Union	Table 2.17	34
Chapter 3 Consumption and Investment	Chapter 3 Consumption and Investment	Chapter 3 Consumption and Investment
Household final consumption expenditure, ANNUAL-Chain volume measures	Table 3.1	1
Household final consumption expenditure, QUARTERLY-Chain volume measures	Table 3.1	2
Retail Trade, ANNUAL-By industry group-Chain Volume Measures	Table 3.2	3
Retail Trade, QUARTERLY-By industry group-Chain Volume Measures	Table 3.2	4
Retail Turnover , ANNUAL-By industry group	Table 3.3	5
Retail Turnover, MONTHLY-By industry group	Table 3.3	6
Private gross fixed capital formation and inventories, ANNUAL-Chain volume measures	Table 3.4	7
Private gross fixed capital formation and inventories, QUARTERLY-Chain volume measures	Table 3.4	8
Actual Private New Capital Expenditure, ANNUAL-By type of asset and selected industry	Table 3.5	9
Actual Private New Capital expenditure, QUARTERLY-By type of asset and selected industry	Table 3.5	10
Expected and actual private new capital expenditure , ANNUAL-By selected industry and type of asset	Table 3.6	11
Book value of inventories owned by private business, ANNUAL	Table 3.7	12
Book value of inventories owned by private business, QUARTERLY	Table 3.7	13

New Motor Vehicle Sales, ANNUAL-By type of vehicle	Table 3.8	14
New motor vehicle sales, MONTHLY-By type of vehicle	Table 3.8	15
Chapter 4 Production	Chapter 4 Production	Chapter 4 Production
Indexes of industrial production, ANNUAL-By industry	Table 4.1	1
Indexes of industrial production, QUARTERLY-By industry	Table 4.1	2
Livestock Products, ANNUAL-Selected indicators	Table 4.2	3
Livestock Products, QUARTERLY-Selected indicators	Table 4.2	4
Livestock Products, QUARTERLY-Selected indicators-Milk Intake by factories	Table 4.2	5
Manufacturing Production, ANNUAL-Selected indicators	Table 4.3	6
Manufacturing Production, QUARTERLY-Selected indicators	Table 4.3	7
Manufacturers' sales and inventories, ANNUAL	Table 4.4	8
Manufacturers' sales and inventories, QUARTERLY	Table 4.4	9
Private Mineral and Petroleum Exploration actual and expected, ANNUAL	Table 4.5	10
Private Mineral and Petroleum Exploration actual and expected , QUARTERLY	Table 4.5	11
Private Mineral and Petroleum Exploration actual and expected , HALF YEARLY	Table 4.5	12
Production of Selected Minerals, ANNUAL	Table 4.6	13
Production of Selected Minerals, QUARTERLY	Table 4.6	14
Building Approvals, ANNUAL-Number and value	Table 4.7	15
Building Approvals, MONTHLY-Number and value	Table 4.7	16
Building Commencements, ANNUAL-Number and value-Chain volume measures	Table 4.8	17
Building Commencements, QUARTERLY-Number and value-Chain volume measures	Table 4.8	18
Value of building work done, ANNUAL-Chain volume measures	Table 4.9	19
Value of building work done, QUARTERLY-Chain volume measures	Table 4.9	20
Construction activity, ANNUAL-Value of work done-Chain volume measures	Table 4.10	21
Construction activity, QUARTERLY-Value of work done-Chain volume measures-Seasonally adjusted	Table 4.10	22
Construction Activity, QUARTERLY-Value of work done-Chain volume measures-Trend	Table 4.10	23
Engineering Construction Activity, ANNUAL-Value of work done-Chain volume measures	Table 4.11	24
Engineering Construction Activity, QUARTERLY-Value of work done-Chain volume measures	Table 4.11	25
Tourist Accommodation, ANNUAL	Table 4.12	26
Tourist Accommodation, QUARTERLY	Table 4.12	27
Chapter 5 Prices	Chapter 5 Prices	Chapter 5 Prices
Consumer Price Index, ANNUAL-By group	Table 5.1	1
Consumer Price Index, QUARTERLY-By group	Table 5.1	2
Consumer Price Index, ANNUAL-Special series and All groups	Table 5.2	3
Consumer Price Index, QUARTERLY-Special series and All groups	Table 5.2	4
Chain price indexes, ANNUAL-Expenditure on GDP	Table 5.3	5
Chain price indexes, QUARTERLY-Expenditure on GDP	Table 5.3	6
Implicit Price Deflators : Components of International Trade in Goods and Services, ANNUAL	Table 5.4	7
Implicit Price Deflators : Components of international trade in goods and services, QUARTERLY	Table 5.4	8
RBA Index of Commodity Prices, ANNUAL	Table 5.5	9
RBA index of commodity prices, MONTHLY	Table 5.5	10

Indexes of Prices Received and Paid, ANNUAL-By Farmers	Table 5.6	11
Selected Housing Price and related Indexes, ANNUAL-Original	Table 5.7	12
Selected Housing Price and related Indexes, QUARTERLY-Original	Table 5.7	13
Selected Producer Price Indexes, ANNUAL	Table 5.8	14
Selected Producer Price Indexes, QUARTERLY	Table 5.8	15
Price Indexes of Materials Used in House Building by Materials group, ANNUAL	Table 5.9	16
Price Indexes of Materials Used in House Building by Materials group, QUARTERLY	Table 5.9	17
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, ANNUAL-Selected industries	Table 5.10	18
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, QUARTERLY-Selected industries	Table 5.10	19
Price Indexes of Articles Produced, ANNUAL-By manufacturing industries-Selected ANZSIC subdivision	Table 5.11	20
Price Indexes of Articles Produced, QUARTERLY-By manufacturing industries-Selected ANZSIC subdivision	Table 5.11	21
Export Price Indexes, ANNUAL-By selected AHECC section	Table 5.12	22
Export Price Indexes, QUARTERLY-By selected AHECC section	Table 5.12	23
Import Price Indexes, ANNUAL-By SITC sections	Table 5.13	24
Import Price Indexes, QUARTERLY-By SITC sections	Table 5.13	25
Consumer Price Index, ANNUAL-Analytical series	Table 5.14	26
Consumer Price Index, QUARTERLY-Analytical series	Table 5.14	27
Stage of Production Producer Price Indexes, ANNUAL	Table 5.15	28
Stage of Production Producer Price Indexes, QUARTERLY	Table 5.15	29
Service industries Producer Price Indexes, ANNUAL	Table 5.16	30
Service industries producer Price Indexes, QUARTERLY	Table 5.16	31
Chapter 6 Labour Force and Demography	Chapter 6 Labour Force and Demography	Chapter 6 Labour Force and Demography
Labour Force Status of the Civilian Population, ANNUAL-Persons	Table 6.1	1
Labour Force Status of the Civilian Population, MONTHLY-Persons	Table 6.1	2
Labour Force Status of the Civilian Population, ANNUAL-Males	Table 6.2	3
Labour Force Status of the Civilian Population, MONTHLY-Males	Table 6.2	4
Labour Force Status of the Civilian Population, ANNUAL-Females	Table 6.3	5
Labour Force Status of the Civilian Population, MONTHLY-Females	Table 6.3	6
Unemployment rate, ANNUAL-By sex and age group	Table 6.4	7
Unemployment rate, MONTHLY-By sex and age group	Table 6.4	8
Unemployed persons, MONTHLY-Duration of unemployment-Original	Table 6.5	9
Unemployed Persons, QUARTERLY-Reason for Leaving Last Job-Original	Table 6.6	10
Employed Persons, ANNUAL-By industry	Table 6.7	11
Employed Persons, QUARTERLY-By industry	Table 6.7	12
Job Vacancies, ANNUAL	Table 6.8	13
Job Vacancies, QUARTERLY-Seasonally adjusted	Table 6.8	14
Industrial Disputes, ANNUAL-By industry-Working days lost per '000 employees	Table 6.9	15
Industrial Disputes, QUARTERLY-By industry-Working days lost per '000 employees	Table 6.9	16
Estimates Resident Population and Components of Population Change, ANNUAL	Table 6.10	17
Estimates Resident Population and Components of Population Change, QUARTERLY	Table 6.10	18
Estimated resident population, ANNUAL-At 30 June	Table 6.11	19

Overseas Arrivals and departures, ANNUAL	Table 6.12	20
Overseas arrivals and departures, MONTHLY	Table 6.12	21
Chapter 7 Incomes and Labour Costs	Chapter 7 Incomes and Labour Costs	Chapter 7 Incomes and Labour Costs
Household income account, ANNUAL-Sources of income	Table 7.1	1
Household income account, QUARTERLY-Sources of income	Table 7.1	2
Household income account, ANNUAL-Uses of income	Table 7.2	3
Household income account, QUARTERLY-Uses of income	Table 7.2	4
Company profits before income tax, QUARTERLY-By broad industry	Table 7.3	5
Average Weekly Earnings of Employees, ANNUAL-Full-time adults	Table 7.4	6
Average Weekly Earnings Employees, QUARTERLY-Full-time adults	Table 7.4	7
Total hourly rates of pay indexes, ANNUAL-By occupation-Excluding bonuses	Table 7.5	8
Total hourly rates of pay indexes, QUARTERLY-By occupation-Excluding bonuses	Table 7.5	9
Labour Costs, ANNUAL AVERAGE	Table 7.6	10
Labour Costs, QUARTERLY	Table 7.6	11
Chapter 8 Financial Markets	Chapter 8 Financial Markets	Chapter 8 Financial Markets
Financial Aggregates, ANNUAL	Table 8.1	1
Financial Aggregates, MONTHLY	Table 8.1	2
Secured Housing Finance Commitments to Individuals, ANNUAL	Table 8.2	3
Secured Housing Finance Commitments to Individuals, MONTHLY-Seasonally adjusted	Table 8.2	4
Personal Finance Commitments, ANNUAL	Table 8.3	5
Personal Finance Commitments, MONTHLY	Table 8.3	6
Commercial and Lease Finance Commitments, ANNUAL	Table 8.4	7
Commercial and lease Finance Commitments, MONTHLY	Table 8.4	8
Key Interest Rates, ANNUAL	Table 8.5	9
Key Interest Rates, MONTHLY	Table 8.5	10
Exchange Rates, ANNUAL	Table 8.6	11
Exchange Rates, MONTHLY	Table 8.6	12
Australian Stock Market Indexes, ANNUAL	Table 8.7	13
Australian Stock Market Indexes, MONTHLY	Table 8.7	14
Credit Market Summary (\$ billion), ANNUAL	Table 8.8	15
Credit Market Summary (\$ billion), QUARTERLY	Table 8.8	16
Chapter 9 State Comparisons	Chapter 9 State Comparisons	Chapter 9 State Comparisons
Estimated resident Population, ANNUAL	Table 9.2	1
Estimated resident Population, QUARTERLY	Table 9.2	2
Gross state product and state final demand, ANNUAL-Chain volume measures	Table 9.3	3
Gross state product and state final demand, QUARTERLY-Chain volume measures	Table 9.3	4
Retail Turnover, ANNUAL-Chain volume measures	Table 9.4	5
Retail Turnover, QUARTERLY-Seasonally Adjusted-Chain volume measures	Table 9.4	6
Retail Turnover, MONTHLY-Trend	Table 9.4	7
Total Private New Capital Expenditure, ANNUAL	Table 9.5	8
Total Private New Capital expenditure, QUARTERLY-Seasonally adjusted	Table 9.5	9
New Motor Vehicle Sales, ANNUAL-Total	Table 9.6	10
New Motor Vehicle Sales, MONTHLY-Total	Table 9.6	11
Building Approvals, ANNUAL-Number and value	Table 9.7	12
Building Approvals, MONTHLY-Number and value	Table 9.7	13

Consumer Price Index, ANNUAL-All groups	Table 9.8	14
Consumer Price Index, QUARTERLY-All groups	Table 9.8	15
Employed Persons, ANNUAL	Table 9.9	16
Employed Persons, MONTHLY	Table 9.9	17
Unemployment Rate, ANNUAL-Persons	Table 9.10	18
Unemployment rate, MONTHLY-Persons	Table 9.10	19
Average Weekly Total Earnings of employees, All employees	Table 9.11	20
Total Job Vacancies, ANNUAL	Table 9.12	21
Total Job Vacancies, QUARTERLY	Table 9.12	22
Secured Housing Finance Commitments to Individuals, ANNUAL-Number and Value	Table 9.13	23
Secured Housing Finance Commitments to Individuals, MONTHLY-Number and Value	Table 9.13	24
Total Hourly rates of pay Indexes, ANNUAL-Excluding bonuses	Table 9.14	25
Total hourly rates of pay indexes, QUARTERLY-Excluding bonuses	Table 9.14	26
Chapter 10 International Comparisons	Chapter 10 International Comparisons	Chapter 10 International Comparisons
Real gross domestic product volume index, ANNUAL	Table 10.1	1
Real gross domestic product volume index, QUARTERLY	Table 10.1	2
Balance on current account, ANNUAL-Percentage of seasonally adjusted GDP	Table 10.2	3
Balance on current account, QUARTERLY-Percentage of seasonally adjusted GDP	Table 10.2	4
Balance of payments, ANNUAL-Current balance	Table 10.3	5
Balance of payments, MONTHLY-Current balance	Table 10.3	6
Private consumption expenditure volume index, ANNUAL	Table 10.4	7
Private consumption expenditure volume index, QUARTERLY	Table 10.4	8
Private fixed capital investment volume index, ANNUAL	Table 10.5	9
Private fixed capital investment volume index, QUARTERLY	Table 10.5	10
Industrial Production volume index, Annual	Table 10.6	11
Industrial Production volume index, QUARTERLY	Table 10.6	12
Consumer Price Index, ANNUAL-All items	Table 10.7	13
Consumer Price Index, QUARTERLY-All items	Table 10.7	14
Consumer Price Index, ANNUAL-Excluding shelter	Table 10.8	15
Consumer Price Index, QUARTERLY-Excluding shelter	Table 10.8	16
Producer Price Index, ANNUAL	Table 10.9	17
Producer Price Index, QUARTERLY	Table 10.9	18
Wages Index, ANNUAL	Table 10.10	19
Wages Index, QUARTERLY	Table 10.10	20
Employment index, ANNUAL	Table 10.11	21
Employment Index, QUARTERLY	Table 10.11	22
Unemployment rate, ANNUAL	Table 10.12	23
Unemployment rate, MONTHLY	Table 10.12	24
M1 plus quasi-money index, ANNUAL	Table 10.13	25
M1 plus quasi-money index, QUARTERLY	Table 10.13	26

This page last updated 4 February 2009

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Index of Feature Articles Published in Australian Economic Indicators

Issue Title

Aug 2008 A Statistical Overview of the Construction Industry

Apr 2006 Foreign Ownership of Equity

Apr 2006 Quarterly Review

Mar 2006 Recent Taxation Revenue Trends in Australia

Jan 2006 Quarterly Review

Jan 2006 A Statistical Overview of Tourism

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Dec 2005 The International Comparison Program and Purchasing Power Parities

Nov 2005 Estimating and Removing the Effects of Chinese New Year and Ramadan to Improve the Seasonal Adjustment Process

Oct 2005 Quarterly Review

Sep 2005 Analytical Living Cost Indexes for Selected Australian Household Types: Update to June 2005

Sep 2005 Issues With Seasonal Adjustment of Hours Worked

Jul 2005 Household Water Use and Effects of the Drought

Jul 2005 Automotive Fuel in the Consumer Price Index

Apr 2005 The Terms of Trade and the National Accounts

Mar 2005 Purchasing Power Parities and Real Expenditures - 2002 Benchmark Results for OECD Countries

Dec 2004 Seasonally Adjusted and Trend Estimates for the Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Oct 2004 Use Of Arima Modelling to Reduce Revisions

Sep 2004 Analytical Living Cost Indexes for Selected Australian Household Types: Update to June 2004

Jul 2004 Unemployment and Participation Rates in Australia: A Cohort Analysis

Jul 2004 Supply and Use Tables and the Quarterly National Accounts

Jul 2004 Measuring Price Change in the Australian Economy

Apr 2004 Leading Indicators of Employment

Jan 2004 Australia's Exporters, 2002-2003

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